

## KARO-ECHO Membership Meeting

September 14, 2020

via Zoom

### Attendees

NI6A	Don Simon
KJ6AAT	David Swanson
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey
KN6BUY	Tom Fattaruso
KN6CMP	Blake Yeaman
KN6CMR	Susan Yeaman
KK6GIO	Larry Vanselow
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto
K6KOP	Jerry Michaels
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske
KC6OBK	Marian Gade
KM6UBY	Edward Carney
KK6RED	Diane Richwine
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas
KJ6SWK	Annette McCoubrey
KM6UCF	Natalie DeJarlais
KJ6WSS	Jay Fenton
KK6ZPM	Karen Leong Fenton
	Cort Cooper cortiscooper@outlook.com

### *Portable Power Training*

Rob (K6RJM) provided a training session on portable power, covering several topics including the following:

- Extending handheld power
- Extending mobile radios
- Pros and cons of various types of batteries
- Battery duration
- Connectors
- Cases for portable use
- Battery chargers
- Safety issues

Rob's presentation is available at <https://bit.ly/3mBw3G1>.

General questions can be submitted to [elmer@karoecho.net](mailto:elmer@karoecho.net), or to Rob at [k6rjm@arrl.org](mailto:k6rjm@arrl.org).

Discussion following the presentation:

- It's valuable to have a volt meter.
- An HT will draw 4 or 5 times the RF output power, whereas the mobile radio draws close to a 2:1 ratio.
- When operating on battery power, you need to know what power setting you're using. The lower the power, the longer the battery will last.
- Cort, who works with ebikes, stated that the lithium life cycle is dependent on how you store the battery. If you store it fully stored or fully depleted, you get fewer cycles. Leaving things plugged in does damage. For lead acid batteries - the general guidance is to not let them go below 12.2 volts without a load (when they're just sitting). It's OK for this to happen if you're pulling off the battery.
- It's good to keep lead acid batteries topped off all the time to extend life. (It's the opposite with lithium batteries.)

### ***Wildfire Camera Volunteers Needed***

Cort Cooper ([cortiscooper@outlook.com](mailto:cortiscooper@outlook.com)), a scientist and oceanographer, spoke about wildfire monitoring, for which he is seeking volunteers. He was representing a grassroots citizens group called Kensington Neighbors for Wildfire Prevention.

Tilden Park and Wildcat Canyon are of great local concern, as they are "tinderboxes waiting to be lit." A fire starting in the park could be at the ridgeline within 15 minutes.

Recently, there's been a dramatic increase in the number of monitoring cameras for wildfire, spearheaded by a group out of the University of Nevada. Cort is trying to set up a watch where volunteers take turns watching the camera(s) during Diablo wind events -- perhaps an hour at a time. The Wildcat camera at Vollmer Peak is visible at <https://bit.ly/3cfp5Se>.

Contact Cort directly if you are interested in volunteering.

### ***October SET & Great Shakeout***

Howdy is proposing 10/24 for a fall SET, and hopes that people can operate from the field and not just from home for the SET. He's willing to support people in being better prepared

for that.

Due to the pandemic, we'll probably need to set up in a parking lot adjacent to El Cerrito City Hall, rather than gaining access to the EOC room.

There was some discussion regarding the start time and the length of the SET, which Howdy will take into consideration. If it's on the shorter side, Howdy would like to make it more challenging and have a less relaxed pace.

The Great Shakeout is on Thursday, 10/15, when we have a net. We can do a shakeout-themed exercise that day. The Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale was suggested

### ***Communication Hubs Update***

There continues to be limited coverage by the comm hubs and neighborhood nets. There are well organized CERT blocks that have no representation in CERT. Our goal is to connect radio operators with CERT coordinators where they exist, and among themselves otherwise. We want to reach the CERT-organized groups with the neighborhood nets. There are currently four active ACs out of seventeen

When asked the difference between comm hubs and neighborhood nets, Hal explained that comm hubs are KARO-ECHO hams at the neighborhood command posts. It's the Ham net co-located with neighborhood/area posts. Neighborhood nets, on the other hands, are GMRS/FRS nets within the neighborhoods.

Don (NI6A) pointed out that at the block level (could be 3-4 blocks), where there's a block captain or block lead. The block captain should have a communications coordinator. Within the block, the FRS people should communicate on a given channel determined by the block captain and coordinated with the CERT Area Comm Coordinator.

If anyone has ideas to further this project, contact Hal, Rob, Howdy, or Don.

### ***Upcoming Classes***

Diane (KK6RED) & David (KJ6AAT) are presenting two upcoming classes:

- Saturday, 9/20, 10-12 - Rapid damage assessment. Register on Eventbrite
- Wednesday, 10/14 - Messaging class. Don has been working on a PowerPoint, and Diane and David will present that. It is not yet available on Eventbrite.

## *Elmering*

Hal (KK6NDF) would like to set up a schedule for Elmering, and require registration and presubmitted questions. Sessions will be divided between novices and experienced operators for both hams and GMRS/FRS operators.

- There are training videos on the website that everyone can access. Let's not re-create the wheel where there are existing resources.
- Questions can be submitted to [elmer@karoecho.net](mailto:elmer@karoecho.net).
- The Google Group is at <https://groups.google.com/a/karoecho.net/g/elmer>

The meeting was adjourned.